

David B. Rosenbaum, 009819
Emma J. Cone-Roddy, 034285
OSBORN MALEDON, P.A.
2929 North Central Avenue, 21st Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2793
(602) 640-9000
drosenbaum@omlaw.com
econe-rodgy@omlaw.com

(Additional Counsel for Plaintiffs Listed on the Signature Page)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

C.M., on her own behalf and on behalf of
her minor child, B.M.; L.G., on her own
behalf and on behalf of her minor child,
B.G.; M.R., on her own behalf and on
behalf of her minor child, J.R.; O.A., on
her own behalf and on behalf of her
minor child, L.A.; and V.C., on her own
behalf and on behalf of her minor child,
G.A.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

United States of America,

Defendant.

A.P.F., on his own behalf and on behalf
of his minor child, O.B.; and J.V.S., on
his own behalf and on behalf of his minor
child, H.Y.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

United States of America,

Defendant.

No. 2:19-cv-05217-SRB

**REPLY IN FURTHER SUPPORT
OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO
COMPEL DISCOVERY
WITHHELD BY THE
GOVERNMENT BASED ON
IMPROPER PRIVILEGE
ASSERTIONS**

(Oral Argument Requested)

No. 2:20-cv-00065-SRB

INTRODUCTION

As described in the motion, Plaintiffs provided the government multiple opportunities to address its privilege designation deficiencies; yet, the government narrowed its privilege designations only after Plaintiffs sought judicial intervention. (Mot. (C.M., ECF No. 93 at 1–2; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 90) at 1–2) The government’s revisions concede that the majority of its original designations were improper, retaining only 18% of its deliberative process privilege claims, 12% of its presidential communications privilege claims¹, and 40% of its attorney-client or work product claims.

Despite this narrowing, many of the government’s remaining privilege assertions are improper. The deliberative process privilege is inapplicable because the government’s intent, decisionmaking, and alleged misconduct are at issue. The government’s arguments to the contrary mischaracterize Ninth Circuit precedent. The government’s deliberative process privilege assertions suffer from numerous deficiencies, and Plaintiffs could overcome the privilege, even if it applied, because their need for the information outweighs the government’s confidentiality concerns. As to the attorney-client privilege and work product protection, the government’s revised privilege logs still do not establish the required elements of these privileges, and based on what can be gleaned from them, the government’s assertions continue to be overbroad. For the reasons set forth below and in the motion, Plaintiffs’ motion to compel should be granted.

ARGUMENT

I. The Government Has Improperly Redacted Documents Based on the Deliberative Process Privilege

A. The Privilege Is Unavailable in these Cases Because the Government’s Intent, Misconduct, and Decisionmaking Process Are at Issue

The “dominant view” among jurists is that the deliberative process privilege is “vitiated entirely” when the “government’s decisionmaking process is central” or when the

¹ The government now asserts the presidential communications privilege as to only nine unique documents. (Opp. (C.M., ECF No. 99; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 96) at 17) Plaintiffs do not challenge these designations.

1 case involves the government’s intent or misconduct. *United States v. Lake Cty. Bd. of*
 2 *Comm’rs*, 233 F.R.D. 523, 527 (N.D. Ind. 2005) (collecting cases); *see Moore v. Valder*,
 3 2001 WL 37120629, at *2 (D.D.C. July 31, 2001) (describing this view as “well-settled”).
 4 Relying on *Karnoski v. Trump*, 926 F.3d 1180 (9th Cir. 2019), the government argues that
 5 this dominant view does not apply in the Ninth Circuit. (Opp. (C.M., ECF No. 99; A.P.F.,
 6 ECF No. 96) at 4–6) But the government’s reliance on *Karnoski* is misplaced as *Karnoski*
 7 did not analyze the availability of these exceptions.

8 As the government acknowledges, district courts within this Circuit have found that
 9 the “privilege is unavailable” when the government’s “decisionmaking process is itself at
 10 issue.” (Opp. at 5 n.2) The government discounts these decisions because they predate
 11 *Karnoski*. (*Id.*) After remand in *Karnoski*, however, the district court “adopted the
 12 reasoning and conclusions of the . . . [U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in a
 13 related action], which found that the deliberative process privilege could ‘not be used to
 14 shield discovery into [the government’s] decision-making process and intent when the
 15 extent and scope of that decision-making process is a central issue in this lawsuit.’”
 16 *Karnoski v. Trump*, 2019 WL 6894510, at *1 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 18, 2019) (quoting *Doe 2*
 17 *v. Esper*, 2019 WL 4394842, at *7 (D.D.C. Sept. 13, 2019)) (citing *Karnoski*, 2019 WL
 18 6130826, at *2), *order clarified*, 2020 WL 606493 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 7, 2020).

19 As the D.C. Circuit has reasoned, consistent with the decisions of multiple district
 20 courts within the Ninth Circuit, it “makes no sense to permit the government to use the
 21 privilege as a shield” when “the plaintiff’s cause of action is directed at the government’s
 22 intent” or where “governmental officials’ deliberations” are at issue.² *In re Subpoena*
 23

24 ² The D.C. Circuit adjudicates the deliberative process privilege more than other courts,
 25 and courts in other jurisdictions, including the Ninth Circuit, often cite D.C. Circuit case
 26 law when addressing the privilege. *See, e.g., Karnoski*, 926 F.3d at 1203 (citing *Loving v.*
 27 *Dep’t of Def.*, 550 F.3d 32, 38 (D.C. Cir. 2008)); *Assembly of State of Cal. v. U.S. Dep’t of*
 28 *Com.*, 968 F.2d 916, 920 (9th Cir. 1992) (citing *Formaldehyde Inst. v. Dep’t of Health &*
Human Serv., 889 F.2d 1118, 1122 (D.C. Cir. 1989)); *Lake Cty. Bd.*, 233 F.R.D. at 526
 (noting Seventh Circuit’s adoption of D.C. Circuit’s definitions of “predecisional” and
 “deliberative”).

1 *Duces Tecum Served on Office of Comptroller of Currency*, 145 F.3d 1422, 1424 (D.C.
 2 Cir. 1998), *on reh'g in part*, 156 F.3d 1279 (D.C. Cir. 1998); *see, e.g., Karnoski*, 2019 WL
 3 6894510, at *1; Mot. at 4 (citing cases). The government's invocation of the privilege in
 4 such cases would prevent plaintiffs from proving their claims, as key evidence would not
 5 be produced.³ The government notes that an aim of the privilege is to avoid chilling agency
 6 deliberations. (Opp. at 13, 15) But there is no legitimate government interest in chilling
 7 *misconduct*, which is why the privilege does not apply when government misconduct is
 8 credibly alleged. *In re Sealed Case*, 121 F.3d 729, 738 (D.C. Cir. 1997) (application of
 9 privilege where "documents . . . may shed light on government misconduct" would "not
 10 serve 'the public's interest in honest, effective government'" (quoting *Texaco Puerto Rico*,
 11 *Inc. v. Dep't of Consumer Affairs*, 60 F.3d 867, 885 (1st Cir. 1995)). Because the
 12 government's intent, misconduct, and decisionmaking processes are at issue, the privilege
 13 does not apply here.

14 **B. Numerous Deficiencies Undermine the Government's Invocation of the**
 15 **Privilege**

16 The government has not cured deficiencies in its invocation of the privilege. The
 17 government has withheld evidence related to the implementation of the Zero Tolerance
 18 Policy on the rationale that it is predecisional with respect to "various . . . policy decisions
 19 necessary to implement the Zero Tolerance Memorandum or other policy decisions
 20 concerning border security and immigration." (Weinsheimer Decl. (C.M., ECF No. 99-1;
 21 *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 96-1) ¶ 12; Opp. at 10–11) But the specific decision as to which the
 22 documents are predecisional remains unclear. *See Maricopa Audubon Soc. v. U.S. Forest*
 23 *Serv.*, 108 F.3d 1089, 1094 (9th Cir. 1997) ("agency must identify a specific decision to
 24 which the document is predecisional"); *Nat'l Res. Def. Council v. U.S. Dep't of Def.*, 388

26 ³ The government emphasizes that its production of the withheld information would reveal
 27 the agency's mental processes. (Govt. Opp. at 8–9, 11) That is precisely why the
 28 information should be disclosed. Plaintiffs claim intentional infliction of emotional
 distress, and these mental processes are relevant. The deliberative process privilege should
 be a "nonsequitur" under these circumstances. *In re Subpoena*, 145 F.3d at 1422.

1 F. Supp. 2d 1086, 1103 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (“vague and generalized descriptions” of
2 decisions are insufficient).

3 Vague descriptions of implementation decisions mask the fact that the government
4 is withholding highly relevant post-decisional material. For example, the government has
5 redacted “summaries of efforts by Southwest Border districts on implementing increased
6 criminal immigration prosecution efforts under the Zero Tolerance Policy.” (Priv. Log.
7 (C.M., ECF No. 99-3; A.P.F., ECF No. 96-3) at CD-US-00011438A) These summaries,
8 dated May 7 and 8, 2018, postdate the April 6, 2018 announcement of the Zero Tolerance
9 Policy and the Department of Homeland Security’s May 4, 2018 related decision to refer
10 all family units for prosecution.⁴ The Court should reject the government’s
11 mischaracterization of post-decisional documents as predecisional. *See Buffalo Field*
12 *Campaign v. U. S. Dep’t of the Interior, Nat’l Park Serv.*, 2020 WL 3790725, at *4 (D.
13 Mont. July 7, 2020) (documents about “continued implementation” are “not
14 predecisional”); *Ecological Rights Found. v. Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency*, 2017 WL
15 5972702, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 30, 2017) (privilege inapplicable to “documents concerning
16 ongoing considerations about what agencies should do with broad regulatory authority”).

17 The government also argues that the documents are “predecisional to other [non-
18 DOJ] agency policies and decisions that were required to implement the Zero Tolerance
19 Policy.” (Opp. at 11). No other agency, however, has invoked the deliberative process
20 privilege in the three months since the government produced the material, and counsel’s
21 attempt to invoke the privilege on these other agencies’ behalf must be rejected. *See*
22

23 ⁴ *Id.* at CD-US-00011439A (“Document from USAO [U.S. Attorney’s Office] in Arizona
24 regarding implementation of zero tolerance policy”), CD-US-00011445A (New Mexico
25 version of document), CD-US-00011447A (Southern District of Texas), CD-US-
26 00011449A (Western District of Texas); *see also id.* at CD-US-00011538A (“Internal DOJ
27 discussion regarding EOUSA [Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys] inquiry conveying
28 SWB [southwest border] USAOs regarding implementation of zero tolerance policy and
processing family units”); CD-US-00007881A (“Email communicating/summarizing
email from USAEO with legal analysis of and prosecution status under Zero Tolerance
Policy”).

1 *Unknown Parties v. Johnson*, 2016 WL 8199308, at *4 (D. Ariz. July 21, 2016) (“agency
2 head, or his delegate” must invoke privilege, not “counsel”).

3 The government likewise has redacted factual information in its reproduction, even
4 though “[f]acts and evidence are not protected by the deliberative process privilege.”
5 *Norton v. Arpaio*, 2016 WL 11513612, at *2 (D. Ariz. Aug. 4, 2016) (quotation marks
6 omitted); *Karnoski*, 926 F.3d at 1204 (government must “segregate and disclose non-
7 privileged factual information within a document”). Specifically, the government has
8 redacted multiple relevant reports. (Opp. at 7) While conceding that the reports contain
9 factual information, the government asserts that this information “is so inextricably
10 intertwined with policy making processes that it itself is part of the deliberative process.”
11 (*Id.* at 9 n.7 (quotation marks omitted)) Yet the government has the burden to establish
12 that factual information is non-segregable, and the Weinsheimer declaration (*C.M.*, ECF
13 No. 99-1; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 96-1) is silent on this point. The government’s conclusory
14 assertion about the intertwined nature of the information is insufficient. *See, e.g., Pac.*
15 *Fisheries, Inc. v. United States*, 539 F.3d 1143, 1148 (9th Cir. 2008) (“conclusory”
16 affidavit insufficient to meet burden); *Scalia v. Int’l Longshore & Warehouse Union*, 336
17 F.R.D. 603, 615–16 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (burden may be met through “an affidavit” but burden
18 unsatisfied where it was “impossible to tell . . . whether the described memoranda and
19 reports contain . . . facts . . . not intertwined with analysis”). Accordingly, the government
20 must produce factual information within any otherwise privileged documents.

21 **C. Plaintiffs’ Need for the Documents Overrides the Government’s**
22 **Confidentiality Concerns**

23 Even if the deliberative process privilege were available and properly asserted,
24 Plaintiffs’ need for the redacted information outweighs the government’s interest in non-
25 disclosure. All eight factors of the applicable balancing test favor Plaintiffs (*see* Mot. at
26 8–12), and the government’s arguments to the contrary are not persuasive.

27 *First*, the government is withholding relevant information—reports and
28 correspondence about family separation and border security, meeting agendas and

1 summaries (that contain family separation-related information), and documents about the
2 implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy. (Opp. at 6) The government inaccurately
3 characterizes this information as “peripheral” to Plaintiffs’ claims. (*Id.* at 12) A defendant,
4 however, is not the arbiter of whether documents are relevant enough to be produced in
5 unredacted form, and the government’s judgment here is suspect. When opposing
6 Plaintiffs’ motion to produce Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (“DOJ
7 OIG”) documents, the government argued that the Zero Tolerance Policy was “at best,
8 marginally relevant.” (*See* Opp. (*C.M.*, ECF No. 97; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 94) at 5) In this
9 motion, however, the government acknowledges the policy’s significance. (Opp. at 1
10 (Zero-Tolerance Policy used to ““intentionally separate children from their parents””)). As
11 an example of an “irrelevant” document, the government incredulously cites a May 3, 2018
12 meeting agenda where senior White House advisors reportedly voted on whether to
13 separate families. (Opp. at 13; Mot. at 9) Plaintiffs are entitled to review the portions of
14 the agenda relating to family separations or implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy
15 since the DHS policy of referring families was implemented the next day. (*C.M.*, ECF No.
16 98 at 4; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 95 at 4)

17 The government concedes that the redacted draft reports and related correspondence
18 would “reveal the agency’s mental process.” (Opp. at 8) As discussed above (*supra* at 3
19 n.3), this mental process is highly relevant to the government’s state of mind, which is an
20 element of Plaintiffs’ intentional infliction of emotional distress claim. *See, e.g., Goss v.*
21 *United States*, 2020 WL 871247, at *7 (D. Ariz. Feb. 21, 2020). The government admits
22 that “portions” of redacted documents “discuss family separations” and “arguably may be
23 relevant to Plaintiffs’ claims.” (Opp. at 12) Though the government argues that other
24 information should not be disclosed, the operative protective order would prevent public
25 disclosure. The Weinsheimer declaration (*C.M.*, ECF No. 99-1; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 96-1)

1 does not explain why this is insufficient.⁵ *See Mayfield v. Cty. of Los Angeles*, 2020 WL
 2 2510649, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 20, 2020) (agency head must explain “why a protective
 3 order would be inadequate”).

4 The government is also withholding documents related to the implementation of
 5 Zero Tolerance. (Opp. at 6) The government notes that “DOJ has removed its claims of
 6 the deliberative process privilege over all documents in the December 31 and January 15
 7 productions that are predecisional and deliberative to the issuance of the Zero Tolerance
 8 Memorandum.” (*Id.* at 12) Presumably, this is because the Zero Tolerance Policy is
 9 relevant to this case. Yet, the government withholds information about the implementation
 10 of the policy, including the DHS decision to refer families for prosecution, which the
 11 *government* has argued led to the separations in these cases. (*See* Mot. to Dismiss (*C.M.*
 12 ECF No. 18; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 21) at 8–9) The government cannot reasonably concede the
 13 discoverability of information about the creation of the policy but withhold information
 14 about its implementation. By the government’s own account, the documents concern
 15 problems with the policy’s implementation, which is relevant to Plaintiffs’ intentional
 16 infliction of emotional distress and negligence claims. *See, e.g.*, Priv. Log. (*C.M.*, ECF
 17 No. 99-3; *A.P.F.*, ECF No. 96-3) at CD-US-00013857A (“Email discussion between
 18 US[AE]O and among DOJ senior officials about processing and manpower difficulties
 19 faced by CBP in implementing the Zero Tolerance Policy, and coordination for examining
 20 and resolving CBP concerns”), CD-US-00012231A (redacting answers to “various
 21 questions” about “the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy and details about
 22 family separation”), CD-US-00014239A (apparent continuation of same discussion), and
 23 CD-US-00014328A (same).

24
 25
 26 ⁵ If the Court reviews documents *in camera* (*see* Opp. at 13 n.10), Plaintiffs request that
 27 the Court not exclusively review the documents that the government selected and that it
 28 also review the following documents: CD-US-00007881A, CD-US-00011438A, CD-US-
 00011439A, CD-US-00011538A, CD-US-00012231A, CD-US-00013857A, CD-US-
 00014239A, CD-US-00014328A.

1 *Second*, the government incorrectly argues that the availability of other evidence
 2 weighs against disclosure because “final executive orders, public statements, and
 3 investigatory reports” related to family separation are publicly available. (Opp. at 13–14)
 4 Public statements and executive orders do not provide information about, for example, the
 5 deliberations that led to the family separation policy, the government’s intent in developing
 6 the policy, or failures in its implementation.⁶ *See Del Socorro Quintero Perez v. United*
 7 *States*, 2016 WL 499025, at *6 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 9, 2016) (rejecting argument that an already-
 8 produced revised policy was comparable evidence to an internal review of the original
 9 policy because the revised policy was “of limited importance if Plaintiffs cannot connect
 10 the dots as to why certain decisions were made”).

11 The government’s reliance on reports concerning family separation issued by
 12 agency Inspector Generals and Congress—including the DOJ OIG report—fares no better.
 13 Paradoxically, the government has refused to produce documents the DOJ OIG relied upon.
 14 (See *C.M.*, ECF Nos. 92, 97, 98; *A.P.F.* ECF Nos. 89, 94, 95) Regardless, reports
 15 summarizing government documents are not a substitute for the documents themselves.
 16 *See Karnoski v. Trump*, 328 F. Supp. 3d 1156, 1162, *vacated on other grounds*, 926 F.3d
 17 1180 (9th Cir. 2019) (“[P]roduction of non-privileged documents and an administrative
 18 record d[id] not obviate Plaintiffs’ need for responsive documents concerning the
 19 deliberative process.”); *see also Karnoski*, 926 F.3d at 1206 (second factor favored
 20 plaintiffs since “[t]he evidence sought is primarily, if not exclusively, under Defendants’
 21 control”).

22 *Third*, the government concedes, as it must, that its role in the litigation favors
 23 disclosure. (Opp. at 14)

25 ⁶ The government cites *Arizona Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer*, 2014 WL 171923 (D. Ariz.
 26 Jan. 15, 2014), *see* Opp. at 13–14, which supports Plaintiffs’ position. There, the court
 27 granted the plaintiffs’ motion to compel in part because “documents concerning the
 28 government’s intent and purpose in crafting” the policy at issue were “highly relevant,”
 and the government had a “central role in the events at issue.” *Arizona Dream Act Coal.*,
 2014 WL 171923, at *3. The same reasoning applies here.

1 *Fourth*, concerning the extent to which disclosure would hinder frank and
 2 independent discussion, the government contends that this factor weighs in its favor
 3 because the documents at issue involve senior DOJ officials and because Plaintiffs seek
 4 money damages. (Opp. at 15) But courts in this Circuit routinely hold that this factor
 5 favors disclosure when a protective order is in place. (Mot. at 10) (citing cases) Further,
 6 for the same reasons discussed *supra*, Section I.A., any concerns about hindering frank and
 7 independent discussion are misplaced here where the discussions are credibly alleged to
 8 involve government misconduct. *See In re Sealed Case*, 121 F.3d at 738.

9 As to the *fifth*, *sixth*, and *seventh* factors, courts find that these considerations favor
 10 disclosure where, as here, government officials allegedly engaged in misconduct and
 11 violated plaintiffs' rights. (Mot. at 10–11 (collecting cases)) The government does not
 12 deny that Plaintiffs allege government misconduct. (Opp. at 16 n.13) Nor can the
 13 government deny the seriousness of this litigation while simultaneously quoting President
 14 Biden as “condemn[ing] the human tragedy that occurred when our immigration laws were
 15 used to intentionally separate children from their parents or legal guardians . . . during the
 16 Trump Administration.” (*Id.* at 1 (quotation marks omitted)) These cases seek relief for
 17 the victims of this tragedy. Plaintiffs and our society as a whole have a strong interest in
 18 accurate judicial fact finding.

19 Finally, the government suggests that the *eighth* factor simply considers whether a
 20 plaintiff pleads “‘substantial’” constitutional claims (*id.* at 16 n.13). The government is
 21 wrong. *See, e.g., California State Foster Parent Ass’n v. Wagner*, 2008 WL 2872775, at
 22 *6 (N.D. Cal. July 23, 2008) (litigation sufficiently serious where “the issue . . . is whether
 23 the state of California has complied with [a] federal [statute]”). In any event, this Court
 24 has found that “Plaintiffs have plausibly alleged that the government’s separation of their
 25 families violated their constitutional rights”—an issue that is relevant to the government’s
 26 discretionary function exception defense. (Mot. to Dismiss (*C.M.*, ECF No. 31; *A.P.F.*,
 27 ECF No. 36) at 7) Because all eight factors favor disclosure, Plaintiffs’ need for the
 28 documents outweighs the government’s confidentiality concerns.

1 **II. The Government Has Not Established the Elements Necessary to Assert the**
 2 **Attorney-Client Privilege or Work Product Doctrine**

3 The government removed over 60% of the attorney-client and work product claims
 4 it made in the two example privilege logs Plaintiffs challenged (approximately 415
 5 documents), and made numerous revisions to its privilege log. These revisions, prompted
 6 only by this motion to compel, (1) demonstrate the government's improper assertions of
 7 attorney-client privilege and work product protection, and (2) underscore the need for an
 8 order requiring the government to reexamine and narrow its privilege claims in all of the
 9 privilege logs that it has produced to date and in any future logs.

10 The government's revised assertions remain deficient. As to the attorney-client
 11 privilege, the government (1) refuses to identify the attorney providing the legal advice and
 12 the client to whom the advice is being rendered; (2) asserts privilege over what appear to
 13 be factual or policy documents; and (3) fails to segregate attorney-client privileged
 14 redactions from other redactions. (Opp. at 19–20) The government asserts that it did not
 15 have to meet the prima facie requirements for asserting the privilege because all DOJ
 16 custodians are lawyers. (*Id.* at 20) Because a government agency can be a client, the
 17 government reasons that “there was no need to specifically identify on the logs the ‘client’.”
 18 (*Id.*) But Plaintiffs’ point is that the government must establish each element of the
 19 privilege, including the specific attorney and client purportedly giving and receiving legal
 20 advice, and the legal nature of the advice being sought or rendered to show that the DOJ
 21 attorney was acting as a lawyer rather than furnishing policy or non-legal advice. *See*
 22 *United States v. Richey*, 632 F.3d 559, 566–67 (9th Cir. 2011). The government has not
 23 done so, making its privilege assertions deficient. This is particularly so for documents
 24 containing policy or factual information, which indisputably must be differentiated from
 25 legal advice. (*See, e.g.*, Priv. Log. (C.M., ECF No. 99-3; A.P.F., ECF No. 96-3) at CD-
 26 US-00011296A (“Results of survey of Southwest Border USAOs on efforts to implement
 27 the Zero Tolerance Policy, with report of statistics on 1325 and other prosecutions”)) The
 28 government also fails to differentiate the redactions made among the multiple privileges

1 asserted in one document, preventing Plaintiffs from evaluating the government's privilege
 2 claims. (*Id.* at CD-US-00009138A ("Draft EO of Affording Congress an Opportunity to
 3 Address Family Separation, with comment in margin from government staff; markup
 4 reflecting legal analysis"), CD-US-00011095A ("DOJ draft memo Principals Working
 5 Group on Border Crossings")) The government must differentiate its privilege assertions,
 6 and withdraw its assertions of attorney-client privilege over policy and factual documents.

7 Finally, as to the work product protection, the government's reliance on *ACLU v.*
 8 *U. S. Dep't of Just.*, 880 F.3d 473 (9th Cir. 2018), elides the court's warning that "not every
 9 document prepared by a DOJ attorney can be withheld on the basis that the agency may
 10 some day become involved in related litigation." *Id.* at 487. If no specific litigation is
 11 identified, the government has the burden of proving that the legal analysis in a document
 12 pertains to a "frequent litigating position." The government has not done so here. Rather,
 13 the revised privilege logs include rote assertions that "legal analysis" was provided. This
 14 description is insufficient under *ACLU*. The government's approach would allow DOJ to
 15 essentially provide no description of a communication's subject matter at all, which the
 16 Court should not allow.

17 CONCLUSION

18 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court direct the
 19 government to: (1) produce all documents withheld or redacted based on the deliberative
 20 process privilege, and (2) produce all materials improperly withheld or redacted under the
 21 attorney-client privilege and work product doctrine, and revise its privilege logs so that
 22 the attorney-client privilege and work product claims are properly identified and
 23 substantiated.

24 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 16th day of April, 2021.

25 /s/ Diana Reiter
 26 Diana Reiter*
 27 Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
 28 250 West 55th Street

1		New York, New York 10019-9710
2		212-836-8000
3		diana.reiter@arnoldporter.com
4	Erik Walsh*	Jonathan H. Feinberg*
5	Lucy McMillan*	Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing, Feinberg
6	Harry Fidler*	& Lin LLP
7	Mark Osmond*	The Cast Iron Building
8	Kaitlyn Schaeffer*	718 Arch Street, Suite 501 South
9	Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP	Philadelphia, PA 19106
10	250 West 55th Street	215-925-4400
11	New York, New York 10019-9710	jfeinberg@krlawphila.com
12	212-836-8000	
13	erik.walsh@arnoldporter.com	Mark Fleming*
14	lucy.mcmillan@arnoldporter.com	National Immigrant Justice Center
15	harry.fidler@arnoldporter.com	224 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 600
16	mark.osmond@arnoldporter.com	Chicago, IL 60604
17	kaitlyn.schaeffer@arnoldporter.com	312-660-1370
18		mfleming@heartlandalliance.org
19	R. Stanton Jones*	Trina Realmuto*
20	Emily Reeder*	Mary Kenney*
21	Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP	National Immigration Litigation Alliance
22	601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW	10 Griggs Terrace
23	Washington, DC 20001	Brookline, MA 02446
24	202-942-5000	617-819-4447
25	stanton.jones@arnoldporter.com	Trina@immigrationlitigation.org
26	emily.reeder@arnoldporter.com	Mary@immigrationlitigation.org
27	David B. Rosenbaum	Katherine Melloy Goettel*
28	Emma J. Cone-Roddy	Emma Winger*
	OSBORN MALEDON, P.A.	American Immigration Council
	2929 North Central Avenue, 21st Floor	1331 G Street NW, Suite 200
	Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2793	Washington, DC 20005
		202-507-7552
		kgoettel@immcouncil.org
		ewinger@immcouncil.org

Attorneys for CM Plaintiffs

* *Admitted pro hac vice*

1 Keith Beauchamp (012434)
2 D. Andrew Gaona (028414)
3 COPPERSMITH BROCKELMAN PLC
2800 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1900
4 Phoenix, AZ 85004
Telephone: (602) 381-5493
5 kbeauchamp@cblawyers.com
agaona@cblawyers.com

6 Matthew J. Schlesinger*
7 Jason A. Carey*
8 Terra White Fulham*
9 Teresa S. Park*
COVINGTON & BURLING LLP
10 One City Center, 850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-4956
Telephone: (202) 662-5581
11 mschlesinger@cov.com
12 jcarey@cov.com
13 tfulham@cov.com
tpark@cov.com

Norma Ventura*
Gillian Gillers*
James Knoepp
SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
P.O. Box 1287
Decatur, GA 30031
Telephone: (404) 521-6700
norma.ventura@splcenter.org
gillian.gillers@splcenter.org
jim.knoepp@splcenter.org

COVINGTON & BURLING LLP
Jessica R. Hanson*
1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 3500
Los Angeles, CA 90067-4643
Telephone: (424) 332-4800
jhanson@cov.com

Attorneys for APF Plaintiffs

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